

CLAIMS

I claim:

- 1 1. A PC system comprising:
2 a plurality of substantially similar input devices coupled to a respective
3 plurality of externally-accessible input ports of a PC; and
4 a device discovery system that identifies a user-desired input device among
5 the plurality of substantially similar input devices, wherein the identification is carried
6 out by detecting a signal that is generated by the user-desired input device in response
7 to a signal stimulus provided by a user.
- 1 2. The PC system of claim 1, further comprising a device configuration system
2 that configures the user-desired input device to operate together with a software
3 application program on the PC.
- 1 3. The PC system of claim 2, wherein the software application program is an
2 audio-video communication program that permits the user of the PC to communicate
3 with a second user of a second PC, via an audio-video communication link.
- 1 4. The PC system of claim 3, wherein the software program is a video chat
2 program.
- 1 5. The PC system of claim 3, wherein the audio-video communication link
2 comprises a digital subscriber line.
- 1 6. The PC system of claim 1, wherein the plurality of substantially similar input
2 devices comprises audio input devices, and identifying the user-desired input device
3 comprises the device discovery system unmuting the user-desired input device.
- 1 7. The PC system of claim 1, further comprising an output device that is housed
2 together with the user-desired input device in a common enclosure.

1 8. A PC system comprising:
2 an audio input device coupled to any one of a plurality of externally-accessible
3 input ports of a PC; and
4 a device discovery system that polls the plurality of input ports to discover a
5 valid connectivity of the audio input device to the PC by detecting a signal that is
6 generated by the audio input device in response to a user providing an audible
7 stimulus to the audio input device.

1 9. The PC system of claim 8, further comprising a video input device coupled to
2 any second one of a plurality of externally-accessible input ports of a PC; and wherein
3 the device discovery system polls the plurality of input ports to discover a valid
4 connectivity of the video input device to the PC by detecting a signal that is generated
5 by the video input device in response to a user providing a visual stimulus to the video
6 input device.

1 10. The PC system of claim 9, wherein the device discovery system unmutes the
2 audio input device to discover the valid connectivity of the audio input device to the
3 PC.

1 11. A software wizard program stored on a computer-readable medium, the
2 program comprising:
3 logic configured to provide instructions to a user for selecting an audio input
4 device from a plurality of substantially similar audio input devices that have been
5 communicatively coupled to a first respective plurality of externally-accessible input
6 ports of a PC; and
7 logic configured to identify the user-selected audio input device by detecting a
8 signal that is generated by the user-selected audio input in response to an audible
9 stimulus that is provided by the user to the user-selected audio input device.

1 12. The software wizard system of claim 11, further comprising:
2 logic configured to provide instructions to a user for selecting a video input
3 device from a plurality of substantially similar video input devices that have been
4 communicatively coupled to a second respective plurality of externally-accessible
5 input ports of the PC;
6 logic configured to provide a dropdown list showing device identification
7 labels for each of the plurality of video input devices; and
8 logic configured to provide instructions to the user in selecting a video input
9 device from the dropdown list.

1 13. The software wizard system of claim 12, further comprising:
2 logic configured to identify the user-selected video input device by detecting a
3 signal that is generated by the user-selected video input in response to a visual
4 stimulus signal that is provided by the user to the user-selected video input device.

1 14. The software wizard of claim 13, further comprising:
2 logic configured to provide instructions to the user for selecting an audio
3 output device from a plurality of audio output devices that have been
4 communicatively coupled to a first respective plurality of externally-accessible output
5 ports of a PC;
6 logic configured to provide a dropdown list showing device identification
7 labels for each of the plurality of audio output devices;
8 logic configured to provide instructions to the user in selecting the audio
9 output device from the dropdown list; and
10 logic configured to generate an audible test tone from the selected audio
11 output device.

1 15. The software wizard of claim 14, further comprising:
2 logic configured to provide a volume control icon;
3 logic configured to provide instructions to the user to operate the volume
4 control icon to set a desired volume of the selected audio output device; and
5 logic configured to generate an audible test tone corresponding to the desired
6 volume, from the selected audio output device.

1 16. The software wizard of claim 12, wherein the first and second respective
2 plurality of externally-accessible input ports are respectively common ports.

1 17. A PC system comprising:
2 logic configured to discover a user-desired input device among a plurality of
3 substantially similar input devices coupled to a respective plurality of externally-
4 accessible input ports of a PC, wherein the discovery is carried out by detecting a
5 signal that is generated by the user-desired input device in response to a signal
6 stimulus provided by a user.

1 18. The PC system of claim 17, further comprising:
2 logic configured to link the software driver of the user-desired input device to
3 a software application program on the PC.

1 19. The PC system of claim 18 wherein the software program is a video chat
2 program.

1 20. A method of discovering and configuring a user-desired input device among a
2 plurality of substantially similar input devices coupled to a respective plurality of
3 externally-accessible input ports of a PC, the method comprising:
4 launching a software wizard to provide instructions to a user;
5 instructing the user to provide a signal stimulus into the user-desired input
6 device;
7 measuring a first signal amplitude that is generated by a first input device
8 among the plurality of substantially similar input devices;
9 measuring a second signal amplitude that is generated by the user-desired
10 input device in response to the signal stimulus provided by the user; and
11 processing the first and second signal amplitudes to identify the user-desired
12 input device.

1 21. The method of claim 20, wherein the user-desired input device is an user-
2 desired audio input device, and the signal stimulus is an audible signal that is coupled
3 into the user-desired audio input device.

1 22. The method of claim 20, wherein the user-desired input device is an user-
2 desired video input device, and the signal stimulus is a visual signal that is coupled
3 into the user-desired audio input device.

1 23. A method of discovering and configuring a user-desired audio output device
2 among a plurality of substantially similar output devices coupled to a respective
3 plurality of externally-accessible output ports of a PC, the method comprising:
4 launching a software wizard to provide instructions to a user;
5 instructing the user to select the user-desired audio output device from a
6 dropdown list of the software wizard showing device identification labels for each of
7 the plurality of audio output devices; and
8 instructing the user to operate a volume control icon of the software wizard to
9 set a desired volume of the user-desired audio output device; and
10 generating an audible test tone corresponding to the desired volume, from the
11 user-desired audio output device.